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EXAMINER

THAI, HANH B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/733,274

Applicant(s)

TRIBBENSEE, BRUCE

Examiner

Hanh B Thai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed October 4, 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 57-84 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 57-84 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/14/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to the amendment filed October 4, 2004 in which claims 1-56 have been canceled and claims 57-83 are newly added.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to new claims 57-83 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "345" has been used to designate both "parser" and "keyword list" in Fig.3. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**B. Application Entitled to a Filing Date**

If a continuation or divisional application as originally filed is entitled to a filing date despite the omission of a portion of the prior application(s), applicant will be permitted to add the omitted material by way of an amendment provided a statement was included in the application as originally filed that incorporates by reference the prior application(s). If the application as originally filed includes a proper incorporation by reference of the prior application(s), an omitted specification page(s) and/or drawing figure(s) identified in a "Notice of Omitted Item(s)" may be added by amendment provided the omitted item(s) contains only subject matter in common with such prior application(s). In such case, applicant need not respond to the "Notice of Omitted Item(s)." Applicant should submit the amendment adding the omitted material prior to the first Office action to avoid delays in the prosecution of the application. See MPEP § 601.01(d) and § 601.01(g).

For this present case, the statement that the omission was inadvertent is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 60-62, 66 and 76-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The “the feedback is provided immediately when character is entered that completes a keyword”, “the feedback is provided upon entry of a delimiter character indicating the completion of the entry of a word”, “the feedback is provided after the message request is dispatched”, “provides guidance to the user to enter the fields appropriately to be included in the request”, “the individual user may add aliases for keywords which aliases are subsequently operative as keywords for that user” and “an access list assigning to individual users or groups access to particular connector” are not discussed in the specification.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 60-62, 66 and 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 60, it is not understood what applicant meant by “the feedback is provided immediately when character is entered that completes a keyword.”

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Regarding claim 61, it is not understood what applicant meant by “the feedback is provided upon entry of a delimiter character indicating the completion of the entry of a word.”

Regarding claim 62, it is not understood what applicant meant by “the feedback is provided after the message request is dispatched.”

Regarding claim 66, it is not understood what applicant meant by “provides guidance to the user to enter the fields appropriately to be included in the request.”

Regarding claim 77, it is not understood what applicant meant by “the individual user may add aliases for keywords which aliases are subsequently operative as keywords for that user”

Art rejection is not being applied to claims 60-62, 66 and 77 because the claimed limitations cannot be ascertained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 57-59, 63-65, 67-69, 71-76 and 78-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tso et al. (U. S. Patent no. 6,047,327).

1. Regarding claim 57, Tso discloses a server in a client-server environment to receive messages from a client with user interface and messaging system (Fig.3) the

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user's message to request one or more actions to be taken by a server (Fig.4), the server comprising:

- a communication unit to receive the message from the client (Fig. 1, col.7, lines 30-40; col.8, lines 1-57; col.11, lines 35-46 and col. 23, lines 51-57). "communication system" (Fig.1) corresponds to "Communication unit";
- a parser to identify a keyword in a message, the keywords to select one or more connector files that specify actions to be taken by the system by interacting with one or more external data servers accessible to the system (Fig.4, col. 13, lines 4-9; col.16, lines 1-9 and col.17, lines 19-30). "full story text" and "video" are the keywords;
- an action logic (Fig. 9) to perform the action "logical database" (col. 5, lines 1-11, Tso) specified in the connector file that is connected between "INFOBITE" and "RESOURCES" (93, 95, Fig. 4, Tso) to indicate an action associated with the keyword "FULL STORY TEXT,VIDEO,..." (see Fig. 4, Tso) by interacting with the external data servers in accordance received in responses from the external data servers and assembling a response message for the user (col.4, lines 54-64; col.5, lines 1-30; col.8, lines 1-57 and col.11, lines 13-18. The server in California is interacting with the external server in New York); a filtering mechanism to extract information receive in responses from the external data servers and assembling a response message for the user (col.13, lines 26-34; Fig.5, steps "103-107" and corresponding text); and

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a sending unit to transmit the response message back to the client via the communication units of the server (col.10, lines 26-40).

2. Regarding claim 58, Tso further discloses that wherein the communications unit further receives a formatted response to the request message, and the user interact further presents requested results and information to the user (col. 10, lines 41-61, col. 21, lines 5-10 and col. 25, lines 3-24).

3. Regarding claim 59, Tso further discloses that the user interface further provides feedback to the user upon detection of the one or more keywords, indicating that an action will be taken in response to the keywords (Fig.4 and col.11, lines 58-64).

4. Regarding claim 63, Tso further discloses the user interface to prompt the user as to the specific action to be taken in response to the keyword detected in the message (col. 8, lines 48-64 and Fig.3). The “InfoAction API” corresponds to the user Interface.

5. Regarding claim 64, Tso further discloses the user enters information if a predefined format for inclusion in the user-supplied text (col.25, lines 14-19).

6. Regarding claim 65, Tso further discloses that the format includes specific fields when multi-field data is to be included in the request (col.8, Table 1 contains format fields to be included in the request).

7. Regarding claim 67, Tso further discloses that the request message sent by the client messaging system comprises one or more of the following: some of the message entered by the user, other information extract from the system specific to the user, and context information obtained from the client portion of the system (col.8, lines 1-64. The user must enter a keyword or message sentence to execute a command to retrieve a resource).

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8. Regarding claim 68, Tso further discloses that the actions utilize data from one or more of the following: the message entered by the user (col.8, lines 1-64), additional message content data in pre-store connector files, additional information extracted from the system specific to the user and context data (step 103, Fig.5 showing the “time of date and location of user” corresponds to “additional information”).

9. Regarding claim 69, Tso further discloses that the user request is received as a text message (col.7, lines 30-67 and col.10, lines 10-40).

10. Regarding claim 71, Tso further discloses that the action logic executes one or more of the following actions: posting information to an external database, querying an external database, querying an external web page, posting to an external web page, and combining information fetched from sources internal or external to the system with data contained in the message received from the client and depositing the result into one or more external destinations (col.5, lines 1-30. The server system in California is external to the server system in New York).

11. Regarding claim 72, Tso further discloses the action logic executes several actions in sequence in a multi-step response to the action message entered at the client (col.8, lines 1-64. The user has to enter a keyword to execute a command to retrieve a resource)

12. Regarding claim 73, Tso further discloses that the action logic completes the actions of logging the user in to an external data server requiring password access, and then completing the action called for by the action message entered at the client (col.3, lines 9-18).

13. Regarding claim 74, Tso further discloses that the response is placed in a format appropriate for the user’s display device (col.25, lines 3-19).

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14. Regarding claim 75, Tso further discloses a communication unit to send the response to a destination (col.7, lines 30-40; col.8, lines 1-57; col.10, lines 26-40; col.11, lines 35-46 and col. 23, lines 51-57)

15. Regarding claim 76, Tso further discloses a list of connector files to invoke various actions (Fig.4).

16. Regarding claim 78, Tso discloses a client-server system with a client with user interface and messaging system, the user's message to request one or more actions to be taken by a server, the client further comprising:

- a parser to detect one or more keywords in the message, the keywords to select one or more connector files that specify actions to be taken by the server by interacting with one or more external data servers accessible to the server (Fig.4, col. 13, lines 4-9; col.16, lines 1-9 and col.17, lines 19-30). "full story text" and "video" are the keywords;
- a messaging unit to transmit messages (79, Fig.3) to the server based on the contents of the user's message and the selected one or more connector files, the messaging unit to receive a response generated by an action Logic in the server which performs the actions specified by the connector files, the response assembled by a filtering mechanism within the server (col.10, lines 26-40, Fig.3 and corresponding text).

17. Regarding claim 79, Tso discloses that the client connectors are downloaded from a central connector catalog (col. 24, lines 18-33 and line 55-col.25, line 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 70 and 80-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tso et al. (U. S. Patent no. 6,047,327) in view of Senn et al. (US 6,151,610).

Regarding claim 70, Tso discloses all of the claimed limitations as discussed above, except that the user input comprises a speech input mechanism and the system further comprises a speech-to-text converter. Senn discloses a speech recognition which is able to convert sound information into text (col.21, line 50-col.22, line 65, Senn). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Tso to include the claimed feature as taught by Senn. The motivation of doing so would have been to provide a specialized system be able to carry out multi-threaded execution such as speech-to-text conversion (col.1, lines 25-30, Senn).

18. Regarding claim 80, Tso discloses a messaging system comprising:

- a database of keywords, each keyword having an associated connector file ("Infobite database" contains keyword "full story text" having associated connection to "resource database", Fig.4);
- a user interface ("Inforaction" 87, Fig.3),
- a parser to detect the one or more keywords in the message (Fig.4, col. 13, lines 4-9; col.16, lines 1-9 and col.17, lines 19-30). "full story text" and "video" are the keywords,

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- a messaging unit (element 67, 79, Fig.3) to assemble a request message based on the message, and
- a communications unit to transmit the request “Communication system” (Fig.1) corresponds to “Communication unit” to send response with a result from the action (ACTIONS, 94, Fig. 4). When the keyword in the action in the Infobite (Fig. 4, Tso) is actively performed, it will receive a responsive result to that action displayed in Resources (95, Fig. 4).

Tso, however, does not disclose “a user input including a message”. Senn, on the other hand, discloses a user input device (164, Fig.10, Senn) to receive input including a message. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Tso to include the claimed feature as taught by Senn. The motivation of doing so would have been to provide a specialized system be able to carry out multi-threaded execution (col.1, lines 25-30, Senn).

19. Regarding claim 81, Tso/Senn combination further discloses a central database of connector files (database 50, Tso), each connector file associated with a keyword, users downloading the connectors from the central database, a user interface to enable a user to edit, add, and delete keywords associated with downloaded connectors (see col. 24, lines 18-33, Tso).

20. Regarding claim 82, Tso discloses a messaging system comprising:

- a user interface (“Inforaction” 87, Fig.3),
- a messaging unit (element 67, 79, Fig.3) to assemble a request message based on the message, the messaging unit further to add additional information to the request message,

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- a parser to detect one or more keywords in the message, the keywords to select one or more connector files that specify actions to be taken by the system by interacting with one or more external data servers accessible to the system (Fig.4, col. 13, lines 4-9; col.16, lines 1-9 and col.17, lines 19-30). “full story text” and “video” are the keywords,
- an action Logic (Fig. 9) to perform the action “logical database” (col. 5, lines 1-11, Tso) specified in the connector file that is connected between “INFOBITE” and “RESOURCES” (93, 95, Fig. 4, Tso) to indicate an action associated with the keyword “FULL STORY TEXT,VIDEO,...” (see Fig. 4, Tso) by interacting with the external data servers in accordance received in responses from the external data servers and assembling a response message for the user (col.4, lines 54-64; col.5, lines 1-30; col.8, lines 1-57 and col.11, lines 13-18. The server in California is interacting with the external server in New York); a filtering mechanism to extract information receive in responses from the external data servers and assembling a response message for the user (col.13, lines 26-34; Fig.5, steps “103-107” and corresponding text) (Fig. 9) to perform the action “logical database” (col. 5, lines 1-11, Tso) specified in the connector file that is connected between “INFOBITE” and “RESOURCES” (93, 95, Fig. 4, Tso) to indicate an action associated with the keyword “FULL STORY TEXT,VIDEO,...” (see Fig. 4, Tso) by interacting with the external data servers in accordance received in responses from the external data servers and assembling a response

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message for the user (col.4, lines 54-64; col.5, lines 1-30; col.8, lines 1-57 and col.11, lines 13-18. The server in California is interacting with the external server in New York);

- a filtering mechanism to extract information receive in responses from the external data servers and assembling a response message for the user (col.13, lines 26-34; Fig.5, steps "103-107" and corresponding text; and
- a sending unit to transmit the response message back to the user (col.10, lines 26-40).

Tso, however, does not disclose "a user input including a message". Senn, on the other hand, discloses a user input device (164, Fig.10, Senn) to receive input including a message. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Tso to include the claimed feature as taught by Senn. The motivation of doing so would have been to provide a specialized system be able to carry out multi-threaded execution (col.1, lines 25-30, Senn).

21. Regarding claim 83, Tso/Senn combination further discloses that the additional information comprises information extracted from the user's system (col.24, lines 18-33, Tso).

22. Regarding claim 84, Tso/Senn combination further discloses that the additional information comprises context information, such as: location and time of day (col.21, lines 5-32, Tso).

Conclusion

23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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1. Krueger et al. (US 6,308,222) disclose transcoding of audio data.
 2. Murakami (US 5,987,503) discloses system and method for displaying an electronic mail containing a keyword detected in a chat session message.
24. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B Thai whose telephone number is 571-272-4029. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hanh B Thai
Examiner
Art Unit 2161

February 16, 2005



UYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER